

Section Life Cycle Management

News & Views

First EU Network on Sustainable Product-Service Development Launched

Goal and scope. Within industry a focus on services rather than products alone determines increasingly competitive advantage. At the same time, it is widely believed that a service-oriented economy in general will be more sustainable than an economy oriented at the production of material goods. Under the EU's Fifth Framework Programme, in May 2002 *SusProNet*, the EU's first Thematic Network on Product Service Development (PSD) has been launched. The Network is organised around a co-ordination group of 7 scientific institutes and some 25 mostly industrial organisations. *SusProNet* forms a *cluster* with 7 other major EU projects that develop practical product-service systems. The network's goal is to:

1. Exchange, analyse, complete and make easily available information on PSD best practice.
2. Identify research needs to create excellence in PSD in Europe;
3. To build a lasting EU-wide network of researchers and practitioners in the field of PSD;
4. To contribute considerable to various EU policy objectives, such as Integrated Product Policy, Sustainable Development, and competitive growth.

Activities. Central in the Network is a series of *industry sector-oriented workshops* that aim to make available Best Practice, can program research, and generate lessons for the best form of industry-authority interplay. Sectors/Need areas covered are *Base materials, Information and Communication, Office workspace, Food and retail, and Households*.

Additionally, *SusProNet* aims to build up a *virtual network organisation* of the few 100 key professionals in the EU in the field of PSD. This is done by organising *open conferences*, a final *cluster dissemination event*, and the creation of an *active and elaborated website* (www.suspronet.org). A key element of the website is a structured and free accessible database where over the project we will build up an overview of *persons, institutes and their expertise*, literature and tools reflecting *best practice* and *know-how* in the field of PDS. Experts and practitioners are encouraged to enlist themselves and their expertise via the website, which will make them part of what probably will grow out to the key expert directory in the field of PDS.

More information and participation. Interested parties who are not part of the original consortium can be involved at various levels:

- First, there is still a limited number of (funded) opportunities for industrial organisations to be actively involved in the consortium itself as participant, contributing to workshops, etc.
- Second, interested experts from industry, academia, NGOs and government can actively participate (free of charge) in the consortium's open activities (2 conferences, the internet-based virtual expertise network, *SusProNet*'s expertise and project database, etc.).
- Third, interested parties can be more passively involved by being recipient of our information flow (newsletter, e-mail announcements, internet resources).

Sign up to *SusProNet* according to desired level of involvement at www.suspronet.org or contact the project manager

Dr. Arnold Tukker at TNO, Tukker@stb.tno.nl

See www.suspronet.org also for the details of *SusProNet*'s Launch Conference on 5-6 June 2003 in Amsterdam (free of charge!), including all papers.

The *SusProNet* consortium

The co-ordination team	Participants (status November 2002)	Advisory Board
TNO-STB (NL), Dr. Arnold Tukker (Project Manager) (tukker@stb.tno.nl) VITO (B), Ir. An Vercalsteren (vercalisa@vito.be) Econcept (D), Dipl. Ing. Ursula Tischner (u.tischner@econcept.org) Centre for Sustainable Design (UK), Prof. Martin Charter (mcharter@surrey.ac.uk) TNO Industrial Research/Kathalys (NL), Ir. Peter Joore (p.joore@ind.tno.nl) INETI (P), Ir. Rui Frazao (rui.frazao@mail.ineti.pt) O2 Global Network, p/o Ir. Conny Bakker (Conny@knoware.nl)	Etemit/Redco (B) • Applied Industrial Technologies (H) ERM UK; Philips Consumer Electronics (NL) • Ecobouw C.V.B.A. (B) Thames Valley Association (UK) • Alcatell Bell N.V. (B) • Jaga N.V. (B) McBride CE (B) • Pars pro toto (B) • WS/Arkaida (B) • Nokia (Su) Barco N.V. (B) • IEE (UK) • Hewlett Packard (US) • Interface (UK/US) Heidelberger Druckmaschinen (D) • Siemens (NL/D) • AGFA (D) Recycling Partners A.G (D) European Environmental Bureau, INSEAD (F) Alliance for Global Sustainability (via ETH Zürich, CH)	Dr. Claude Fussler, World Business Council for Sustainable Development Ir. Bas de Leeuw, UNEP Prof. Ezio Manzini, Politecnico di Milano Prof. Ab Stevels, Philips and TU Delft Dr. Wolfgang Wimmer, Austrian Ecodesign Knot/ TU Vienna

The provisional activity agenda

Name activity	Status	Date	Organising institute	Proposed location
Workshop 1	*	29-30 January 2003	TNO Industrial Research	Eindhoven, the Netherlands
Conference 1	Free	5-6 June 2003	CfSD	Amsterdam, the Netherlands
Workshop 2	*	26-27 September 2003	INETI	t.b.a
Workshop 3	*	29-30 January 2004	VITO	t.b.a
Conference 2	Free	27-28 May 2004	O2 Global Network	t.b.a
Cluster dissemination	Free	Fall 2004	TNO-STB	t.b.a

* On invitation

The other EU FP5 projects in the cluster

Prosecco – Product Service Co-design • Co-ordinator: University of Stuttgart, D
Innopse – Innovation Studio and exemplary developments for Product Service Engineering • Co-ordinator: Universität Paderborn, Abteilung Soest, D
Lean Services – Lean Services for Industrial and Services Competitiveness • Co-ordinator: CEFORALP-F
ISPCOM – Integrated and Standardised Pylon Concept for 3rd Generation Mobile Communication • Co-ordinator: Steelcon, DK
ASP-NET – Application Service Providers Network • Co-ordinator: Archimedia S.A., H
PROTEX – Modified Proteases for the Reduction of Felting and Shrinkage of Wool Textiles • Co-ordinator: De Montfort University, UK
Brainfridge – The intelligent commercial refrigerator of the future • Co-ordinator: SOLINET GmbH, D